

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Office position set forth in the outstanding Office Action mailed March 21, 2002, in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Per the Official Action dated March 21, 2002, claims 1-4, and the Specification stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 1-4 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 1-4 have been amended and claims 8 and 9 have been added, however no new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1-4 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that the claims are generally narrative and indefinite and require antecedent basis for several limitations. Additionally, the Examiner has asked for verification as to whether claims 5, 6 and 7 should be deleted.

Applicant responds that claims 1-4 have been amended to provide the necessary antecedent basis and otherwise conform to current U.S. practice. Accordingly, claims 1-4 clearly define and distinctly claim the present invention. Additionally, Applicant confirms that claims 5, 6 and 7 should be deleted. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

The present specification also stands as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner alleges that the present patent application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR §1.72(b).

Applicant responds that the patent application as filed on March 23, 2001 does contain an abstract of the disclosure, which is located on page 20 of the specification. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-4 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,014,832 (Donnelly).

The Examiner alleges that Donnelly discloses a papermaking process wherein the process contains a Yankee drier having its surface kept clean by the release of an emulsified oil agent applied to the rotating Yankee drier cylinder and advancing web nip, such that the release agent is continuous and uniform and contacts the surface of the drier before the surface contacts the paper web. The Examiner asserts that it would be inherent that the applied oil creates a thin oil film on the drier cylinder and the continuously applied oil fills any microscopic recesses on the surface of the drum.

The Applicant responds that Donnelly sprays the release agent onto a pressure nip between the drier cylinder and the associated rubber covered suction press roll, which is illustrated in Figure 2. The release agent is sprayed not only onto the drying cylinder, but also onto the paper web. Donnelly specifically notes that the release agent is applied to the web in column 4, lines 26-30; column 6, lines 26-38; column 7, lines 51-53 and 69-75; column 8, lines 1-6; and claim 1. In fact, Donnelly even touts the advantages of applying the release agent to the web itself in column 7 lines 4-8, wherein such application results in the web having a greater tensile strength after stretching and rewinding when compared to a comparable web untreated with the release agent. Furthermore, Figure 1 shows that the release agent is sprayed directly to the paper web by the spray boom means. Therefore, according to Figures 1 and 2, the release agent is sprayed directly onto the paper strip, wherein when the release agent contains oil, it eventually contaminates the paper strip in the form of an oil stain.

On the contrary, the present invention utilizes a surface treatment prepared by emulsifying oil by the agency of a surfactant that is continuously supplied from a spray nozzle to the surface of the drum drier, and thus the present invention does not apply

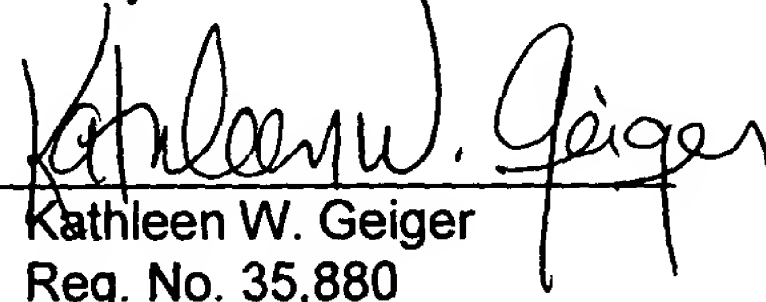
any of the emulsifying oil to the paper strip. Therefore, since the oil is not directly applied to the paper, the paper does not become contaminated. Moreover, since a very small amount of oil is used for application to the drum drier surface, if any oil applied to a surface of the drum drier were secondarily transferred to the paper strip, its slight amount would not contaminate the paper strip. Thus, the present invention and Donnelly teach significantly different processes for preventing drum drier surface contamination.

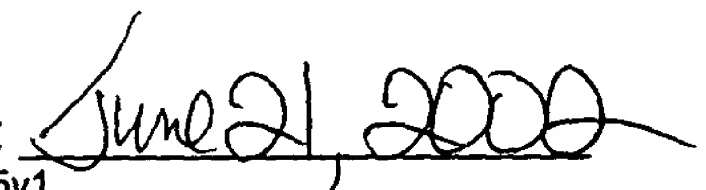
For all of the reasons noted above, Applicants believe that the cited reference does not anticipate the Applicant's claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

There are no fees due in accordance with this response, however should a fee be due that is unaccounted for, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 501447. Furthermore, if any extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 501447.

Applicants believe the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot and that a complete response has been made to the Office Action dated March 21, 2002. Applicants believe that the application stands in condition for allowance with withdrawal of all grounds of rejection. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has questions regarding the application or the contents of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Kathleen W. Geiger  
Reg. No. 35,880  
Telephone: (302) 984-6127  
Facsimile: (302) 658-1192

Date:   
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In the claims provided below, all additions to the claims are underlined while all deletions are contained within brackets.

***In the Claims:***

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Twice amended) A method for preventing contamination of [the ] a surface of a drum drier used in a paper machine[, ] comprising the step of continuously supplying [whereby] a surface treatment agent from a spray nozzle at a spray rate of 0.3 to 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per min to the surface of the drum drier in rotation, facing a paper strip, while the paper strip is fed by the paper machine, wherein the surface treatment agent is prepared by emulsifying oil by the agency of a surfactant [is continuously supplied from at a spray rate of 0.3 to 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per min to the surface of the drum drier in rotation, facing a paper strip, while the paper strip is being fed by the paper machine in operation].

Claim 4 (Twice amended) A method of preventing contamination of [the ] a surface of a drum drier used in a paper machine, said method comprising the following steps 1) to 5):

- 1) [the step of ] supplying oil from a spray nozzle to the surface of the drum drier in rotation, facing a paper strip, while the paper strip is [being ] fed by the paper machine [in operation (oil supplying step)];
- 2) [the step of ] filing up recesses in microscopic asperities on the surface of the drum drier with the continuing supply of an oil [by supplying the oil (fill-up with oil step)];

- 3) [the step of ]forming a thin oil film on the surface of the drum drier with the recesses of the microscopic asperities thereof already filled up by the continuing supply of the oil [(oil film forming step)];
- 4) [the step of ] transferring the oil to the paper strip by keeping the drum drier and the paper strip pressed into contact with each other, depleting the oil film [ (oil transfer step)]; and
- 5) [the step of ] replenishing the drum drier with the oil continuously supplied upon depletion of the oil film by an amount of [the ] depletion [ (oil replenishing step)].